

CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE.

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COUNTY LEGISLATION.

Some Agitation Over the Increase of Values and Tax Raise. Taxes May Be Reduced Next Year as Less Will Be Needed.

The quarterly term of county court adjourned about noon Tuesday of last week after disposing of all business before them. Considerable time was consumed Monday morning with talks relative to the recent assessment of property, which showed an increase of a little less than one million dollars.

In discussing the matter it developed that some persons feel that the assessment of last year should have been used and a special levy made to meet the interest on the \$200,000 road bonds recently sold, which amounts to \$10,000. Owing to the fact that the sale of the bonds was considered problematical, no provision had been made to meet the interest on same for this year, which means that the county starts this fiscal year behind \$10,000. The tax assessment as fixed by the assessor and reviewed by the board of equalization provides for the necessary funds for paying the interest of \$10,000 on the road bonds next year, hence the assessment had to be made sufficiently large to take care of the funds that must be borrowed either from some other department of the county finances or from some bank or individual. That means that the assessment this year must provide \$20,000 for payment of interest on the road bonds, but next year the assessment will not need to be more than half the amount of this year, so far as interest on the \$200,000 in road bonds goes. That should and would mean a reduction in the tax rate next year or a reduction on assessed valuations.

After considerable discussion no change was attempted, as it was clear that any such move would be contrary to the law. Any relief that property owners get from the assessment as now fixed will have to come after making application to the state board.

Judge G. P. Burnett made his quarterly report and incidentally explained the tax situation and stated that after having gone over the situation very carefully with Trustee James Smith they had found that the tax rate for this year must be \$2.00 on the \$100 valuation, in the aggregate, in order to meet the needs of the county.

Judge Burnett stated that he had drawn a warrant for \$5000, to pay the interest on the \$200,000 road bonds, but as there was not that amount in the Pike Bond fund it would stand overdrawn until such time as the collected taxes for this year should overcome the shortage.

The report of Judge Burnett shows the bonded indebtedness of the county to be as follows:

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Railroad | \$ 16,000 |
| Court House | 13,000 |
| Pike | 240,000 |

Total \$275,000

There is in the Pike Bond sinking fund a little over \$1,000.

H. R. Webb, as commissioner of the poor, submitted his report, which was approved.

Superintendent J. S. Cline made a verbal report and stated that the school board hoped to be able to run all rural schools five months this year.

Dr. W. A. Reed made his report as county physician and gave an itemized account of expenses incident to an epidemic of small pox that had prevailed at Westel, but which was entirely stamped out.

The bill was for \$45.76. The court allowed \$8.81 that had been paid for vaccination points, but declined to allow the remainder.

A bill was presented amounting to about \$75 that had been made by Bill Bledsoe while suffering with smallpox at Westel, but the court declined to pay same.

The following persons were released from road work and payment of poll tax because of physical disability: Jackson Wyatt, Henry Barnwell, R. S. Woody, William Whitlow, Vincent Hamby.

C. G. Black made an itemized report

of all expenses by the Highway Commission the past quarter and showed the amount that had been expended the past quarter to be a little over \$4,100 and the amount yet on hand to be a little over \$194,000.

Esq. J. A. Frey made a verbal report for the committee appointed to inspect the poorhouse and reported same in good condition and being well kept.

Judge Burnett was authorized to employ a janitor for the court house, jail and the county property. Hiram Wyatt was engaged by Judge Burnett and the condition of the court house is much improved in cleanliness and general orderly condition.

A. M. Davis was elected to fill out the unexpired term of R. E. Hamby, who recently resigned as road commissioner for the first district.

Andy Elmore was elected a notary public.

Fifty dollars was appropriated by the court to assist in meeting expenses incident to holding a county fair, provided said funds were needed.

The committee appointed to fix the tax levy for this year made both majority and minority reports. The majority report favored a tax levy aggregating \$3.00 on the \$100 valuation. The minority report favored an aggregate levy of \$2.00 on the \$100 valuation. After a full discussion the minority report was substituted for the majority report and adopted. The levy by items is:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| State | 35 |
| County | 35 |
| School | 40 |
| Road | 06 |
| Bridge | 12 |
| Court House | 05 |
| High School | 12 |
| Pike | 55 |
| Total | \$2.00 |

The name of John Q. Wyatt was presented as a candidate for sheriff and no other name being presented he was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of G. W. Toney early in June.

Esq. I. H. Randolph made a verbal report stating that the jail was in good condition and recommended that the bill of the sheriff be paid, less the ex-officio fee of \$20. The court concurred in this report.

Tax Assessor W. L. Flynn was allowed the remaining amount due him for assessing the property of the county for this year.

The committee appointed to assist the tax assessor in arriving at a proper assessment of property for this year was allowed \$2.00 a day each.

John Q. Burnett was allowed \$15.00 ex-officio fees as sheriff.

There being some controversy as to the exact location of the county line between Cumberland and Morgan for a distance of six or seven miles, the county judge was ordered to have same surveyed and the line located, if in his estimation such action was advisable.

Five thousand dollars was ordered transferred from the Railroad fund to the Pike Bond fund to meet the July interest in Pike bonds.

Trustee James Smith reported an extensive list of property comprising erroneous assessments, doubles, etc., from which he requested the court to release him. It was ordered that the releases be made as requested if the Revenue Committee approved of same after proper investigation.

Getting the Better of an Invention.

Very wrong verdicts are come to by people who use modern inventions in the wrong way. The moving staircase at the Embankment station offered a proof of this, says the Manchester (Eng.) Guardian. A country woman was seen trying to ascend the descending side of the moving staircase there. There was no official about, and after two plucky attempts she at last made progress and doggedly worked her way up to the top. Some people who saw her efforts waited for her at the top. When she recovered her breath she said: "Sh, I don't think them movin' staircases all the talk's about is any better than the old lift!"

To Start Child's Training.

The inventive mother will do a great deal of her own constructive planning for the development of her nursery brood. She will visit the kindergarten shops, the toy shops and all the places where the wonderful and much heralded constructive materials and tools are shown to the purchasing public. But, more than this, she will select for herself such materials as she believes are suited to her own experiences, and then will work out her own plans in accordance with the individual development and requirements of her child. —Mrs. Louise Hogan in Good Housekeeping.

A VISIT TO THE "HILL."

Editor Finds Wideawake Farmers and Good Crops in the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood.

Through the courtesy of Clinton Anderson and Herbert Smith, the editor of the Chronicle was privileged to enjoy a most delightful visit to the Pleasant Hill neighborhood Saturday and Sunday. We found Pleasant Hill to be a neat little village of 200 people who have been influenced to gather there by the excellent advantages offered for schooling their children at Pleasant Hill Academy. Almost the entire population depends on farming for a livelihood and the class of farming that is being done by most of them spells success in a very pronounced way.

We were entertained at the pleasant and hospitable home of Clinton Anderson, where we received every courtesy and mark of kindness and good feeling that any person could ask and even more.

Herbert Smith and Clinton Anderson have been looking after the Pleasant Hill Academy farm for several years. They are both enthusiasts on the question of crimson and other clovers and legume crops in general.

Owing to pressure of his home farming, Mr. Smith resigned as farm manager for the Academy the first of June. It was with much regret that Prof. W. E. Wheeler, principal of the Academy, accepted his resignation, but as Mr. Anderson still remained with the institution the loss of the services of Mr. Smith was not so severely felt as would otherwise have been the case. These two gentlemen have been working in the utmost harmony building up the Academy farm by turning under crimson clover and legume crops. When these gentlemen took hold of the farm about five years ago there was very little of the 130 acres that had good fences, only a small portion of the land was in even a passable state of cultivation and much of it was badly run down and washed with deep gullies.

They at once began to grow legumes, plow deep, fill up the gullies and rotate the crops in such a way as to immediately start the farm on the road to fertility. They have now 50 acres in a fair state of fertility. A considerable portion of it is now producing excellent crops and those portions not yet improved to the point where good average crops can be produced are being rapidly brought to a better state of fertility by turning under rye and crimson clover.

Mr. Anderson showed us an excellent piece of corn where only three years ago the land was considered worn out and worthless because it was so poor and full of gullies. By deep plowing and turning under crimson clover he has it where he will get an excellent crop of corn and its future improvement is a comparatively easy task. Mr. Anderson may almost be said to be a crank on the question of turning under crimson clover, but any person who will learn what he has done by that means will readily admit "there is method in his madness." Mr. Anderson is certainly entitled to be classed as one of our most capable and successful farmers.

Herbert Smith and father, N. J. Smith, have been doing a class of farming with new land that should interest deeply every person in this county who is trying to get their new land into grass and thus raise it to a higher state of fertility.

They have a piece of new land that is now growing clover more than waist high that has had no lime, that produced a good crop of oats last year, which was the first crop it produced after being cleared. The land was not plowed but was disced thoroughly, sown in oats and seeded to grass at the same time. Last year a ton of good hay was cut to each of the three acres in the piece. This year it will produce two tons to the acre or more. The only fertilizer it has ever had was 100 pounds of acid phosphate. This is only average mountain land. All in all the methods employed by Messrs. Smith are the most successful and advanced that have come under our notice for

handling new ground.

HEDGE COTH BROTHERS

We also visited the home of Hedgecote Brothers, where we found three active and bright young men who are doing good farming but they feel that they are far from the goal they are seeking and are very eager to learn of better farming methods. They are going in for lime, clovers and legume crops in connection with live stock. When one listens to the eagerness with which they discuss farming methods and understands how they are grasping at the most scientific methods known there is ample evidence that they are bound to win a rousing success by building up one of the most valuable farms in the county.

JOHN A. FREY FARM.

Of the several farms around Pleasant Hill we saw none that presented quite such splendid opportunities for rapid improvement as the farm owned by Esq. John A. Frey. He has 60 acres cleared and free from stumps and is rapidly getting it into clover. Adjoining his cleared land he has several hundred acres in timber that lays equal to any prairie land, which means that the size of his farm need only be limited by his ability to subdue the forest growth. We know of no place in the county that quite equals it, all things considered. While Mr. Frey is doing good farming he did not seem to be fully conscious of the wonderful advantages that his farm presents.

THE ACADEMY.

Pleasant Hill Academy usually has an enrollment of 300 to 400 students. The work it has done in past years is worthy of the highest commendation. It is easy to see that it has done much for the people of that section for you find them intelligent, well-behaved and in sympathy with every movement that makes for better homes, better farms, higher living in its truest sense and a desire to encourage the development of this wonderful section where land is so cheap and homes can so easily be obtained.

To feed the large body of students that attend the Academy it requires fully 400 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100 bushels or more sweet potatoes and fruits and garden products in like proportion. Last year enough Irish and sweet potatoes were grown on the Academy farm to furnish the institution and sell 100 bushels Irish and about half as many sweet potatoes. Fully 1,000 gallons of fruit and vegetables are canned each year at a very much less expense than it could be bought for and practically all of which is grown on the Academy farm. Five cows are kept besides several head of young cattle and many hundred pounds of good beef is furnished the school at small cost. Two teams of mules are also kept for farming and hauling supplies of wood, coal and other things. Even a hurried survey of the situation as was taken by the writer shows clearly that the Academy farm is a large factor in reducing the cost of running the school.

Plans are being considered for adding to the institution an agricultural department whereby a young man may enter Pleasant Hill Academy and after a few years of close application come out not only well equipped with a fair general education, but prepared to take charge of a farm and conduct same successfully. Many persons who have watched the work of the institution feel that the time is now at hand when the greatest work the school has ever done lies before it through an agricultural department that will fit young men to till the soil after the most modern methods. With many thousand acres of idle land that can surely be converted into valuable farms and happy homes there should be a determined effort put forth by Pleasant Hill Academy and similar institutions to encourage agriculture as one of the surest and safest ways to make useful citizens of our young people.

ALBERT RAMSAY.

The story of our visit would not be complete if we should omit to speak of the farm of Albert Ramsay. He has a small farm that he purchased a few years ago for \$500. It was considered so poor and run down that some people

thought he had practically lost his money in making the purchase.

He recently refused \$1,500 for it and it would very likely bring more than that if it were offered for sale. The house is neatly painted, the fences are all high and strong and his crops come the nearest being weedless of any we have ever seen. On every hand there are evidences of thrift and care. He showed us a few acres of corn that was planted June 22 and it is now shoulder high and so free from weeds that he might almost offer a reward to any person who would find one in the field. We have never seen a crop that was quite so uniform, was so free from weeds and showed greater evidences of successful farming. His farm is the talk of the neighborhood and he takes a keen delight in making it all that one could wish in a farm home. More farmers such as Mr. Ramsay is one of the most valuable things that could come to our county.

DAMAGE BY STORMS.

Terrific storms have swept different parts of five states, North Carolina being the worst sufferer. There are 69 persons reported missing with eight known dead and a property loss of six to ten millions.

No trains left or entered Asheville, N. C., for 24 hours. The electric power was put out of commission and gasoline sold for a dollar a gallon. Hundreds are homeless in Asheville and in many instances their homes have been washed away. Roughly speaking the flooded area extends from East Tennessee through southwestern Virginia, through North Carolina and embraces virtually all of South Carolina. The raging waters from North Carolina are passing into South Carolina by the rivers and there is grave danger of serious losses by the rivers getting far out of tanks and flooding the country.

GERMANS LOSING.

The armies of the allies have continued to press back the German lines on almost all fronts and many German prisoners have been taken. Fighting has been terrific on all fronts and at many points and the losses of life are said to surpass anything yet known and to be stunning in their enormity.

FAIR COMMITTEE WILL MEET.

There will be a meeting of the Cumberland County Fair Association July 22nd, at 1 o'clock, p. m., to set date of fair and to transact such business as may come before the committee. All persons interested in the fair are invited to attend.

Harry Martin, chairman.

About twenty persons gathered at the Bishop home Friday evening to listen to a talk by Rev. J. B. Spiers of the New Jerusalem church, and enjoy a social time. The evening proved one of great enjoyment to those present. Light refreshments were served.

J. B. Southard has been appointed as election commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the refusal of G. C. Peek to qualify.

If you want score cards and pencils, paper napkins, nice writing paper cut to special size come to the Chronicle office for them.

GETTING ALONG FINE.

Mrs. J. H. Beeson, who was taken to Knoxville last week to be treated for a broken thigh, is getting along splendidly and her full recovery seems assured.

Upon arriving at Lincoln Memorial hospital an X-ray picture was taken and the thigh bone was found to be broken as Drs. Reed and Lewis thought. The bone was set and another X-ray picture taken to determine if all was right. The picture showed that the bone had been set perfectly. Mrs. Beeson will probably have to remain in the hospital for several weeks before she can be brought home with entire safety. Her many friends here are much gratified to know she is getting along so well and that she will be restored to health.

Babylon First Populous City.

Babylon was probably the first city to attain a population of a million. The area of the city was 235 square miles.